

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 00411 201858Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

PC-01 OMB-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00

SCS-03 SCA-01 CU-02 PER-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 /083 W

-----201902Z 029909 /44

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FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1238

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: PNA MOVEMENT SWELLS; VIOLENCE CONTINUES

REF: LAHORE 0407

SUMMARY: OPPOSITION HELD FOUR PROTEST MARCHES IN LAHORE APRIL 19 AND VIOLENCE BROKE OUT AGAIN BETWEEN PNA AND PPP WORKERS. SIMILAR CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN LYALLPUR. HUTMENT DWELLERS TOOK TO STREETS IN LAHORE IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT. LEFT WING LABOR GROUP TOOK OUT BIG PROCESSION IN SUPPORT OF PNA, FIRST TIME ORGANIZED LABOR IN LARGE NUMBERS HAS DEMONSTRATED WITH PNA IN LAHORE. GROUP OF LEFT WING STUDENTS, POLITICAL AND WORKERS ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT PNA DEMANDS. PIA SLOWDOWN ESCALATED INTO ONE DAY WORK STOPPAGE APRIL 20, WITH NO CONTRACT SETTLEMENT YET IN SIGHT. PNA HAS CALLED GENERAL STRIKE FOR APRIL 22, WHICH THREATENS TO PARALYZE ENTIRE COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LAHORE 00411 201858Z

1. PNA STAGED FOUR BIG DEMONSTRATION MARCHES IN LAHORE APRIL 19 WHICH CONVERGED ON THE MALL IN MAIN DOWNTOWN PART OF CITY. FIRED BY SPEECHES ABOUT PPP HOOLIGANISM, CROWD SPLIT UP AND MOVED OUT TO RETALIATE. MOST OF THE VIOLENCE TOOK PLACE NEAR THE SHERANWALA GATE IN THE OLD CITY WHEN PPP ELEMENTS FIRED ON THE PNA MARCHERS FROM A ROOFTOP, KILLING ONE AND BADLY WOUNDING THREE OTHERS.

PPP MOUNTED A COUNTER DEMONSTRATION AS THOUSANDS OF HUTMENT DWELLERS PARADED ON THE MALL IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT. TWO PPP MEMEBERS OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY LED THE MARCH AND HANDBILLS WERE DISTRIBUTED CALLING FOR AN END TO ARSON, VIOLENCE AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. MARCHERS SHOULD VARIOUS SLOGANS, INCLUDING "DOWN WITH LACKEYS OF AMERICA." PEACEFUL IMAGE WAS SHATTERED WHEN PPP SUPPORTERS LATER SET FIRE TO HOUSE OF PNA LEADER HAMID SARFARAZ. SOME DEMONSTRATORS ON BOTH SIDES WERE ARMED AND OTHER CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE CITY.

2. IN LYALLPUR, SCENE OF SERIOUS INTERPARTY CLASHES FOR LAST THREE DAYS, COMPLETE HARTAL WAS OBSERVED APRIL 19 IN MOURNING FOR TWO PNA WORKERS KILLED BY PPP. POLICE REPORTEDLY USED LATHI CHARGES AND TEAR GAS TO BREAK UP PNA FUNERAL PROCESSION, RESULTING IN ANOTHER DEATH BY FIRING. A POLICE VAN AND A NUMBER OF SHOPS WERE BURNED, APPARENTLY BY PNA ELEMENTS.

3. LEFT WING LABOR GROUP FROM KOT LAKHPAT INDUSTRIAL AREA TOOK OUT PROCESSION IN SUPPORT OF PNA APRIL 19, FIRST TRADE UNION FEDERATION TO DO SO IN LAHORE. (ONLY SPLINTER LABOR ELEMENTS HAD PARTICIPATED IN SOME EARLIER DEMONSTRATIONS.) WORKERS, LED BY EX-PPP LEFTISTS MAHMMOD AND ZIAUDDIN BUTT, MARCHED PEACEFULLY SHOUTING SLOGANS REJECTING NEW PAY COMMISSION AWARD. THEY JOINED PNA GROUPS ON THE MALL AND LATER DISPERSED PEACEFULLY.

4. GROUP OF THIRTEEN LEFTIST STUDENT, POLITICAL AND WORKER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LAHORE 00411 201858Z

ORGANIZATIONS MET IN LAHORE APRIL 19 AND ADOPTED A RESOLUTION DEMANDING FRESH ELECTIONS, LIFTING OF EMERGENCY, RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES, RELEASE OF ALL IMPRISONED POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS, ETCM ORGANIZATIONS WHICH TOOK PART INCLUDED PAKISTAN SOCIALIST PARTY, PAKISTAN WORKERS PARTY (PRESIDENT IS IMPORTANT RAILWAY WORKER LEADER MIRZA IBRAHIM), NATIONALIST STUDENTS ORGANIZATION, STUDENTS REVOLUTIONARY FRONT AND OTHER RADICAL GROUPS.

5. PIA SLOWDOWN ESCALATED INTO A COMPLETE WORK STOPPAGE APRIL 20. ALL DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS IN AND OUT OF LAHORE WERE CANCELLED. STOPPAGE REPORTEDLY IS FOR ONE DAY ONLY, BUT SLOWDOWN IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL SETTLEMENT IS REACHED, WHICH MAY TAKE SOME TIME.

6. OPPOSITION HAS CALLED FOR A COUNTRYWIDE GENERAL STRIKE APRIL 22. IN MEETING AT LAHORE APRIL 19, PNA GENERAL COUNCIL REQUESTED ENTIRE NATION TO OBSERVE STRIKE, SUPPORT OPPOSITION

DEMANDS AND PROTEST AGAINST PPP VIOLENCE. COUNCIL CONDEMNED
RULING PARTY'S ATTEMPT TO WAGE CIVIL WAR WHICH IT SAID
COULD NEVER SUCCEED. STUDENTS QUOTE JAM THE WHEELS UNQUOTE
PROGRAM PREVIOUSL REPORTED TO BEGIN APRIL 21, WILL START
SAME DAY IN PUNJAB AS GENERAL STRIKE, APRIL 22.

7. CONGEN, USIS AND USAID WILL PERMIT ALL NON-ESSENTIAL
FSL PERSONNEL TO TAKE LEAVE ON DAY OF STRIKE. AMERICAN
SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AND AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN WARNED
TO STAY OFF THE STREETS.
GAMON

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Message Attributes

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